

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2024FL011

Name of Service: Toddle In

Address of Service: Hedgestown National School, Lusk, Co Dublin. K45 C793

Email Address: toddlein@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Claire Mc Auley

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: Change in Service type from Sessional to Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional
Change in hours of operation from 09:00 to 12:00 to 07:30 to 18:00.

Proposed Number of Children: 40 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in Service type from Sessional to Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional
Change in hours of operation from 09:00 to 12:00 to 07:30 to 18:00.

Registered change: Change in Service type from Sessional to Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional
Change in hours of operation from 09:00 to 12:00 to 07:30 to 18:00.

Date of Inspection:	1	1	1	2	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: AM Coyle

Title: Early years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Fully Day, Part-Time & Sessional service for 40 children
Date of Registration	13th December 2024

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	The Toddle In is a sessional Early years' service providing early years care and education to children aged from 2-6 years from 09:00 am to 12 midday Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year participating in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.
Premises	The service is conducted from 2 ground floor classrooms in a recently opened primary school in Hedgestown, Co Dublin. Sanitary accommodation is located in each of the care rooms and a nappy changing area is located off the main hallway of the school. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is located to the side of the school.
Staffing	The registered provider works directly with the children attending the service in addition to 3 further staff members.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity; completeness; and compliance with administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

The registered provider is the designated person in charge on a daily basis and a named person is available to deputise as required.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6 and would ensure that an adequate number of adults would at all times work directly with the children in the service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The care room was resourced with a broad range of play materials and equipment to facilitate children to initiate and sustain meaningful play activities. The play materials were stored at an accessible level to the pre-school children. A secure outdoor area is located to the side & rear of the service.

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(b) Suitable rest facilities are available. There are comfortable and suitable areas with mats, cushions and a teepee tent provided in both care rooms for a child to rest or take a break from activities if required. Suitable sleep mats and appropriate bedding is available to facilitate children who may require to sleep in the service.

(3)(a) The outdoor play area is located to the side and rear of the service and is fully enclosed by fencing. The outdoor play area was observed to be suitable and secure, and no safety hazards were noted on the day of inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

A 2-week menu is available. Breakfast is available in the service, the children bring their own morning snack with them to the service, lunch is provided in the service and dinner is sourced from an external catering company and reheated on a daily basis. Drinking water was made available to the children in both care rooms throughout the day.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

There are no hazards observed by the inspector that would impact the health, safety or welfare of the children attending the service. Appropriate measures have been undertaken in the service to ensure the safety of the children for example.

- The external doors and windows were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- The windows in the care rooms were fitted with restrictive opening devices.
- Blind cords were secure in the 2 care rooms.
- All furniture and equipment were clean and in good condition and suitable for use by the proposed age groups.
- The heating system for the service was thermostatically controlled to prevent radiators from exceeding the maximum surface temperature of 50°C.
- Thermostatically controlled running water was available at the wash hand basins in the service.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—
- (a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
 - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There are three staff members in the service who hold in-date first aid response (FAR) training.

(2)(a)(b) First aid boxes were suitably equipped and stored in readily accessible and conspicuous positions in the care rooms, available at all times for the children if necessary.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A copy of the monthly fire drills was available in the service.

(b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The firefighting equipment was certified as having been serviced in June 2024 and the fire detection and alarm system on the 08/08/2024.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the service.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

The regulatory requirement has been met.

The registered provider has insurance cover in place for a maximum of 40 pre-school children. The policy shows that the service is insured from 16/09/2024 to 27/03/2025.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(a) The premises is a recently constructed primary school which appears to be in good condition throughout.

(b) The premises appears safe and was found to be appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years' service. The outdoor play area is surrounded by fencing with a latched gate to secure the area when children are playing outdoors.

(c)

Lighting

- The premises is adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating

- The premises is heated by an air to heat system. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection.

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	<p>Ventilation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventilation in the proposed new room, existing pre-school room and sanitary accommodation is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents. <p>(d) The premises is in a clean condition and in a good state of repair.</p> <p>(e) The service is equipped with adequate sanitary facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service has access to 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins in Room one for use by pre-school children only. • The service has access to 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins in Room Two for use by pre-school children only. • A number of staff toilets in the school premises are available for use by the early years staff members.
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

(1) The minimum space regulatory requirement can be met for 40 pre-school where children are attending on a sessional and full day basis.